



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Homeland Security

Supporting Local Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC)

Enclosed:

Press Release
Fact Sheet
(LESC FY 2003 Stats)
(LESC State Statistics)
(Operation Predator Statistics)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

August 19, 2003

Phone: (202) 514-2648

Williston, VT- Asa Hutchinson, Undersecretary of Border and Transportation Security in the Department of Homeland Security, joined Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Acting Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia to announce expanded capabilities of the Department's Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in investigative work.

"One of the top priorities of the Department of Homeland Security is sharing information with first responders and local law enforcement," said Hutchinson. "Homeland security is not, and cannot, be a federal issue only. Law enforcement in Washington must be able to coordinate with law enforcement in every state, and vice-versa. The men and women of the LESC are on the cutting edge of the federal effort to share critical enforcement information with state, county and local and even international law enforcement officers"

The LESC, established in 1994, serves as a national enforcement operations and intelligence center by providing timely information regarding the status and identities of aliens suspected, arrested or convicted of criminal activity. The LESC operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, gathering information from eight Service databases, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the Interstate Identification Index (III) and other state criminal history indices.

Joined by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chief Harold Hurtt, Chief of the Phoenix Police Department and President of the Major Cities Chief Association, and Commissioner Kerry Sleeper, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, Hutchinson and Garcia toured the LESC facility and outlined new resources available to the LESC.

The merging of 22 agencies and bureaus into the Department of Homeland Security provides new access to law enforcement databases that will now be used by the LESC to greatly broaden its intelligence-gathering capabilities. For example the LESC now has access to intelligence information from the former INS, Customs and the Federal Protective Services databases, moreover new Homeland Security Databases such as SEVIS, NSEERS and US Visit databases are also accessible through the LESC. This will improve its ability to provide timely information to state and local law enforcement agencies around the nation, as well as to international enforcement agencies.

Additionally, the LESC is currently expanding its call center to respond to its increased responsibilities and workload.

Law Enforcement Technicians and Special Agents at the LESC will use these new intelligence resources to conduct investigative research and analysis on aliens who have been arrested or are being investigated by other law enforcement agencies.

"The LESC has developed a reputation nationwide for providing rapid, accurate information to police," said Garcia. "This facility will help the Department of Homeland Security coordinate with police everywhere on investigations ranging from critical national security cases to helping apprehend alien absconders."

On August 8th, 2003, Francis Wanjiru, a non-immigrant native of Kenya was arrested by police in Lawrence, Massachusetts on the charge of raping a 14 year-old girl in a Lawrence Apartment. On August 12th, 2003, Wanjiru pled innocent to the charge of statutory rape in a Massachusetts court. He has been ordered to remain in custody on \$25,000 bail. Wanjiru is believed to be infected with the AIDS virus and local police are continuing to investigate the possibility that there may be other victims. This arrest was made possible through the operations of the LESC.

The LESC received a call on the DHS tip line (1-866-DHS-2ICE), reporting that Wanjiru was engaging in statutory rape. The LESC performed a database check on Wanjiru that reported intelligence that Wanjiru had entered the United States as a student at Saginaw State College in Detroit, Michigan. A check of the SEVIS database did not reveal a record of Wanjiru and it was found that he was in the United States illegally after overstaying his initial visa from 2000.

Based on the information gathered by the LESC and through an ICE investigation, ICE Special Agents contacted the Lawrence, Massachusetts Police Department and placed a detainer on Wanjiru.

After Wanjiru is finished with his local court process, ICE's Detention and Removal Officers will place him into Removal Proceedings with the Immigration Court.

DHS coordination with law enforcement around the country has skyrocketed since September 11, and with the additional resources becoming available will make the facility even more critical to law enforcement and national security investigations.

With one quarter still remaining in the fiscal year, the LESC has already responded to 480,000 investigative inquiries from federal, state, county and local police agencies in all 50 states. That surpasses by more than 50,000 inquiries the total handled in all of 2002 and is expected to surpass 600,000 by year's end.

So far this year LESC investigative analysis has positively identified more than 2,300 aliens, in the custody of local police, who had been deported from the US and illegally re-entered. Reentry after deportation is a federal crime.

"In most cases, an initial analysis on the individual's immigration status is in the hands of the police officer in less than 10 minutes," said Garcia. "This is an outstanding example of the

federal government sharing information with local agencies which leads directly to the assistance of local police operations."

In addition, the LESC is a critical link in Operation Predator, the ICE investigative program aimed at arresting and prosecuting child sex predators, including those who can be deported from the country. Effective prosecution requires coordination between local and federal law enforcement that the LESC facilitates. The DHS nation-wide toll free telephone number for the public to report information about child sex offenders and others who put children at risk is answered at the LESC.

In the past few weeks the line has received 57 calls, 14 of which have led to cases that were turned over to the appropriate agency for investigation. The toll free number, 1-866-DHS-2ICE, is monitored 24 hours a day by the Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC), which will funnel leads to the appropriate ICE component(s) or police agency in a timely manner.

The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the primary Investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security and was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

LESC FACT SHEET

The Law Enforcement Support Center

Background

The Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) serves as a national enforcement operations center by providing timely immigration status and identity information to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies on aliens suspected, arrested or convicted of criminal activity. The LESC operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week assisting law enforcement agencies with information gathered from 8 Service databases, the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the Interstate Identification Index (III) and other state criminal history indices.

In addition to providing real time assistance to law enforcement agencies that are investigating, or have arrested, foreign-born individuals involved in criminal activity.

The LESC also performs the following investigative functions:

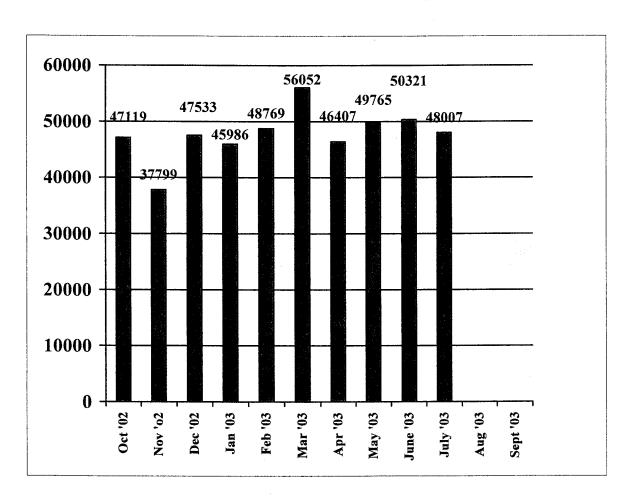
- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) The LESC administers and controls immigration related cases in this nationwide law enforcement consortium and criminal database for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Investigative Services Branch The LESC provides support to a host of on-going multiagency investigative initiatives. Working in concert with ICE field units, task forces and other local, state and federal investigators the Center gathers, analyzes and responds to thousands of off-line query requests
- Special Response Unit (SRU) The LESC is the central point of contact for the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) program. Every foreign-born firearm applicant is screened by the LESC for immigration status before being authorized to purchase or possess a weapon. The SRU also handles queries and field responses relating to national security employment issues (Bio-Terrorism, CDL with Haz-Mat endorsement, Nuclear Industry, etc.)
- The LESC Communications Center serves the law enforcement community with NCIC hit confirmation information as well as ICE Special Agents and Deportation Officers nationwide with after-hours telephonic enforcement support via our digitally recorded duty lines confirmed by Personal Identification Numbers.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

ICE (LESC) FY 2003 PROCESSING

(FY 2003 Total Processing)

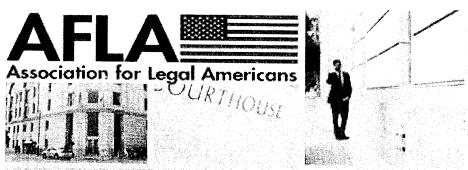


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LESC PROCESSING BY STATE

(LESC Processing by State)

	Total	YTD		Total	YTD			Total	YTD
State	FY '02	FY '03	State	FY '02	FY'03		State	FY '02	FY'03
AK	98	84	LA	155	68		OK	1187	499
AL	259	595	MA	7773	9191	1	OR	3874	4346
AR	150	99	MD	1552	3481		PA	3332	5029
AZ	29837	26292	ME	192	143		RI	37	41
CA	129621	125337	MI	298	427	50% -3	SC	308	562
CO	1704	3194	MN	280	694	50.0	SD	696	869
CT	26589	16629	MO	544	1292		TN	7133	6269
DC	3008	15347	MS	304	480		TX	8755	13557
DE	215	167	МТ	116	66		UT	2735	3151
FL	60879	58929	NC	1113	1795		VA	2813	3230
GA	10813	8480	ND	55	44		VT	798	646
HI	266	259	NE	1480	1002		WA	1279	1300
IA	2531	1933	NH	744	502	265 272	WI	233	279
ID	35	95	NJ	1086	3108		WV	16771	23244
IL	3481	9519	NM	684	1024		WY	816	570
IN	184	698	NV	149	430				
KS	1822	1795	NY	14716	18921		PR	38	
KY	1612	1167	ОН	1705	1515	13	VI	4	5



Elgin Police Chief Answers the Questions

MEMORANDUM



DATE:

January 21, 2009

TO:

Femi Folarin, City Manager

William Cogley, Corporation Counsel

FROM:

Lisa Womack, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Illegal Alien Query (IAQ) Procedural Summary

The purpose of this memorandum is to address several issues which have recently been raised regarding the Elgin Police Department's use of the Illegal Alien Query (IAQ) system of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Law Enforcement Support Center.

Illegal Alien Query Process

In March 2008, the Elgin Police Department (EPD) implemented the policy of conducting residency status checks on all identified foreign-born arrestees. This check is conducted though the Illegal Alien Query (IAQ) system of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center.

Upon arrest of a subject identified as foreign-born, officers request an IAQ check though the Elgin Emergency Communications Center. A telecommunications operator sends the IAQ request electronically by e-mail to the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC). This request is received and processed by on-duty ICE Support Personnel. The time-frame for receiving responses to IAQ requests have ranged from as little as 15 minutes to 2 hours.

One issue which has been raised with respect to EPD's use of the IAQ system is that the EPD is submitting monthly reports to ICE on those persons determined through the IAQ system to be illegally in the country and that such monthly reports are not timely notification to ICE. It should be specifically noted that IAQ checks are received and processed by ICE employees, making all requests "immediate" notifications to ICE. ICE Agents with authority to direct EPD to take specific actions regarding in-custody subjects are on-duty at all times at the LESC.

Additional issues which have been raised with respect to the EPD's use of the IAQ system is that a number of persons who have been identified as being illegally in the country have previously been deported and are still being released by EPD and five persons of the persons identified as being in the country illegally had outstanding ICE warrants. If information is received from LESC that the arrestee is to be held/detained for ICE, has an outstanding ICE warrant, or possible pending ICE warrant EPD makes immediate contact with ICE Agents from the Chicago Regional Office for

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direction. If the IAQ response does not contain the above information, the arrestee is processed under normal procedures for his /her state law or city ordinance violation and released accordingly.

The LESC has confirmed this is the appropriate procedure even if prior deportation(s) and re-entries are indicated on the IAQ response, UNLESS the subject is a shown to be a previously deported felon. EPD must receive an ICE request or hold authorization to detain a person for federal immigration violations regardless of his/her status as an illegal alien.

If an IAQ response is not received in a timely manner, it is possible that an arrestee may bond out of custody before we are informed of his/her hold or warrant status. EPD does not have the authority to hold an arrestee for residency status checks alone if that person meets all lawful conditions to bond out of custody. Every effort is made to obtain the IAQ information prior to releasing the subject from custody.

We also continue to make immediate contact with Chicago Region ICE Agents on all felony, gangrelated, and drug related arrests.

Monthly Reporting

EPD submits a monthly report to the ICE CAP Agent assigned to the Kane County Jail. This report contains information on ALL arrestees that were determined to be illegally in the country. Those that were immediately detained for ICE due to outstanding warrants or holds are included in the monthly report. It should not be assumed that all arrestees that appear on the monthly report were simply released with no further follow-up or action.

Other Information

The question has been raised about a particular arrestee that appears on the EPD monthly report to ICE on 2 occasions. Valentin Sierra-Martinez was checked through the IAQ process. There was no hold authorized by ICE or an outstanding warrant indicated on any check. The EPD Gang Unit believed this subject to have gang affiliation and requested ICE action. This request resulted in an ICE warrant and arrest for violation of federal immigration laws. We were informed this week that Sierra-Martinez has been granted relief from the Federal Judge hearing his case and is being allowed to remain in the country pending an appeal.

Since we implemented the IAQ policy, we are continually monitoring the process and making adjustments as needed. We continue to work with local ICE Agents to appropriately address criminal alien issues in Elgin within our lawful authority.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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